



New Mexico Public Education Department

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NEWS RELEASE

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Public Education Commission Schedules Meeting to Approve or Deny New Charter School

(Santa Fe, NM)—The New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) will meet to vote on approval or denial of 16 applications for new charter schools on Thursday and Friday, September 10-11, 2009 at 8:30 a.m., at the Anderson-Abruzzo Albuquerque International Balloon Museum, Pugash Hall, 9201 Balloon Museum Drive, Albuquerque.

At this meeting, the New Mexico Public Education Department's Charter School Division will make recommendations to the PEC on each of the new charter school applications. Applicants will have two minutes to make a final comment to the PEC. The PEC will have the opportunity ask questions of the PED Charter School Division, and/or make a comment, and then vote to approve or deny the requests.

Charter Schools applications will appear before the PEC in the following order: Organ Mountain Community School; Senator Dennis Chavez Academy; Gallup Montessori School; The ASK Academy; The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy; New Mexico School for Architecture, Construction, and Engineering; South Valley Preparatory School; Sage Charter School; Center for Inquiry Southwest; Albuquerque School of Excellence; Kaplan Academy of New Mexico; Sandia Academy; Tierra Adentro; The New Mexico School of Academics, Art, and Artesania; Luna Charter Academy; The MASTERS Program; and Taos Integrated School of the Arts.

The PEC held public hearings August 24-28, 2009 in Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, and Taos for the charter school applicants. During those hearings, the PEC listened to presentations from the charter schools, followed by comments from local school district representatives, and the public.

All charter school applications can be viewed at: www.ped.state.nm.us and clicking on the link for the Public Education Commission or at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/charter/index.html#applications>

The PEC became an official state authorizer for charter schools July 1, 2007 as a result of the passage of the New Mexico Charter Schools Act which was passed in 2006. Charter Schools may also be authorized by their local school districts. For more information concerning this meeting, please call Beverly Friedman at 505-827-6661 or Dr. Don Duran at 505-222-4765.

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